Mrs. Clark's CASE.

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Clarke (S.)

Dulcis est Odor Lucri.

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Advertiſement.

YEſterday came to my Hands a Reply to this Narrative; and to prevent a great Miſtake, into which the Reader may be likely to fall, I declare to the World, that I who writ this Caſe of Mrs. Clark *had not, directly or indirectly, the leaſt Hand in writing or publiſhing the Anſwer to it, how plauſible ſoever the Grounds may appear that I my ſelf was the Author of it.*

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

Mrs. *CLARK*'s

CASE.

THE unjuſtifiable Treatment of this worthy Lady as a Lunatick, having made ſo much Noiſe in the Town, I perſuade my ſelf, that this impartial and conciſe Account of the Matter of Fact, as well as the Obſervations made upon it, will not be unacceptable to the Publick.

Mrs. *Clark*, a Gentlewoman of Seventy Three Years of Age, was look'd upon as Diſtracted by her Relations, and were confirm'd in their Opinion by the Judgment of Four Phyſicians;

who

who were desir'd to visit her: This Sentence being past upon her Understanding, she was manag'd with all the Rigour and grievous Severities, which are employ'd for the Recovery of the most outragious Madmen; her Doors were secur'd by hir'd Porters, her Goods sent away, her Money seiz'd, her Servants turn'd out, and her Friends deny'd to see her. Upon Complaint made to the Lord Chief Justice *Parker*, the Case was heard before him, and upon the Credit of Dr. *M----*, Dr. *Fr----*, Sir *Ed---d Turner* the Lady's Brother, and Mrs. *Turner* her Niece, his Lordship did not think fit to enlarge her.

Five Days after, Sir *Thomas Clarges* a Justice of Peace, in great Compassion to her, rescu'd her by Force, and convey'd her to the House of one of her Relations. The Day following she appeared before the Lord Chief Justice, and the Case was re-heard; and then, upon the Opinion of Three other disinterested Physicians, who testify'd that she was of a sober Mind, which they

they made good by many convincing Circumſtances; and upon her own giving a long, but coherent and moving Account of the whole Caſe, and her barbarous Uſage; my Lord, having ordered that ſhe ſhould be ſet at Liberty, and that her Houſe and Goods ſhould be reſtor'd, ſeverely reprimanded her Relations for their diſhonourable Behaviour in this Affair; in the mean time he acted tenderly with reſpect to the Credit of the Doctors, one of whom has the Honour to be his Lordſhip's own Phyſician.

N. B. The Lord Chief Juſtice put to Mrs. *Clark* the Affidavits of the Phyſicians, upon which they grounded their Judgments of her Madneſs; all which Paſſages of Words and Actions ſhe well remembered, gave a rational Account of them, and ſhew'd plainly, that they were vilely turned againſt her.

One Phyſician's Depoſition was this, that ſhe fancied ſhe had ſwallow'd Glaſs, which was Matter of Fact, but it was by Accident, as it was fully prov'd at the Hearing.

Dr. *M*——, to prove her Madneſs, depos'd, that ſhe held him by Force; the ſame Perſon carry'd Dr. *Hales* the Phyſician of *Bedlam* to Mrs. *Clark*, and theſe two viſited the Lady after ſhe was confin'd.

Now, it being ſuppos'd that this Narrative contains the true State of the Caſe, the following Obſervations naturally ariſe from it.

It muſt be acknowledg'd by all impartial Judges, that the Proceedings of the Doctors, as well as of the Relations, againſt Mrs. *Clark*, ſupported by ſuch weak and unconvincing Evidence, as does not deſerve a ſerious Confutation, were unwarrantable and cruel. There is no doubt but by various unworthy Pretences, ſome avaricious or indigent Practicers have ſometimes pick'd the People's Pockets of their Money; but that any ſhould take the High-way of Phyſick, compell Men to deliver their Reaſon, and rob them of their Wits in ſuch a notorious Manner, is perhaps as unprecedented as it is Criminal. If

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such licentious Practices should prevail, what can we expect, but that a terrible Persecution may soon be set on Foot by the violent Inquisitors of *Moorfields*, who upon the most slender and inconclusive Suggestions, may send out their inhumane Officers to seize, confine and torture any Persons, whose Understandings they shall pretend are fallen to decay, or who upon the slightest Grounds, and from dishonourable Views, are by near Relations informed against as frantick Hereticks, and Apostates from natural Light and common Sense.

It is an Instance of great Oppression and Inhumanity for the Doctors, upon such insignificant and frivolous Allegations as were brought against Mrs. *Clark*, to take away her Liberty and treat her with Violence, as a Distracted Person; for if upon account of some Singularity in Manners, any peculiar Oddness of Temper, or whimsical Caprice, which however did not appear in this Case, Persons may be taken up by the Lictors and Apparitors of *Bedlam*, may be chain'd,

impriſon'd, and treated with the ſharpeſt Diſcipline, while they are left as much without Remedy as the unhappy Outlaws of that Place; who does not ſee that a vaſt Part of this Nation, ſo much acquainted with the Effects of the Spleen and Hyſterical Paſſions, may by their deſigning Kindred be prov'd guilty of incoherent Diſcourſes, improper Excurſions, and inconſtant Temper, and thereupon be condemn'd as Lunaticks, and manag'd as ſuch? Should ſuch Evidence, I ſay, be allow'd, what would become of the numerous Family of Coquets, and the not inferior Race of Impertinents, Fops and Coxcombs; and how would ſome of our greateſt Wits themſelves ſave their thin Partitions from being broken down, and preſerve their Ill-fenced Incloſures from being laid in common with the Territories of *Bedlam*? And further, if theſe unwarrantable Proceedings are connived at, half our Houſes may be ſhut up, and become the Priſons of the Inhabitants, with whom all Commerce and Converſation muſt be forbid-

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den, while the Plague of Diſtraction would be rife and univerſal, and Keepers would be wanting to attend the Lunaticks.

This Way of Proceeding without Proof, and treating pretended Madmen with Force and Cruelty, is indeed an effectual Way to make a ſober Man mad, as to cure one that is ſo; and this Advantage ſuch Doctors will have, that thoſe whom they did not find, they will make Lunaticks, and then the ſubſequent Marks of Diſtraction ſhall be alledg'd to back and juſtify the firſt unreaſonable Charge.

Could it be ſuppos'd that the other Members of the learned Body of Phyſicians ſhould act with equal Raſhneſs and Indiſtinction in reſpect of the Patients of this Species, it muſt be allow'd that there would be more than one College of diſturb'd Minds in this City.

But why were not gentle Methods preſcrib'd by the Doctors at firſt to reduce this pretended Lunatick, before they

they came to Extremity? Why did they not direct Ass's Milk and Crabs Claws, so much in Fashion, not only in the greatest chronical Distempers, but all inflamatory and malignant Feavers? I do not know whether these powerful Remedies have been yet directed in Apoplexies, and for Prevention of sudden Death: But I am informed there is a Dissertation ready for the Press, in which they are recommended to be us'd in Clysters, instead of Cow's Milk and Sugar, for the cure of the most inveterate and obstinate Diseases; whence it appears, that the Milk of the Ass and the Claws of the Crab are endow'd with as great Variety of wonder-working Vertues, as the Prayer address'd to the Virgin *Mary* for Women in Labour, which was form'd and printed some Years ago in *France*, to which as a Postscript was added, *And this Prayer is likewise good for Feavers and Thunder.* Now why, I say, were not these easy, generous and pleasant Medicines

dicines first try'd, before those Acts of Force and Cruelty were insisted on?

It has been alledg'd that this Gentlewoman appear'd disorder'd in her Mind, from her Religious Disposition and frequent Strains of Devotion. Such Qualities are indeed, in the Opinion of some Physicians, an evident Mark of a distemper'd Head, who attribute all religious Principles and devout Passions to an exorbitant Melancholly, over-agitated Spirits, and splenetick Imagination. But it did not appear that this Gentlewoman's Piety was Enthusiastick, or by any Means inconsistent with a sound and undisturb'd Mind; nor was there more Ground to believe that her Reason was overturn'd by too much Religion, than that the Faculties of the Doctors were prejudic'd by too much Learning.

N. B. This Lady's Relations, as well as the Physicians, do still persist in declaring not only that she was mad, but that she still continues so; and the

first

first give this, out as an Answer for not returning Bank Bills of 200 *l.* which were taken from her: The Physicians by this are ashamed to own they were mistaken, or which is the modestest Way to get off, impos'd upon by the Relations, which shews too plainly that it was a downright Conspiracy.

FINIS.